



Hands on Habitat

State of Mississippi

What Are the Problems?

- **Coastal wetlands** Nearly 60% were lost by the mid-1980s.
- **Population growth** Hancock County alone has experienced a 92% population increase since 1972.
- **Competing demands** Industry, tourism, fishing, and residential development all stress Mississippi's coastal system.
- **Derelict gear** Lost and abandoned crab traps continue to fish Gulf waters.

Background

Mississippi's coastal marshes, sea-grasses, oyster reefs, barrier islands, and estuaries provide critical habitat for finfish, shellfish, and other wildlife. Healthy marine habitats are critical to the economy in a number of ways, including the \$450-million-per-year commercial fishing industry.

What We Do

- Create and restore oyster reefs for fish habitat and water quality improvement
- Restore tidal marshes
- Develop strategies for water quality improvement
- Remove marine debris, including derelict crab traps
- Educate communities about the value of habitat and restoration

How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships with Mississippi's public, private, and non-profit organizations. Our projects continually demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of locally based habitat conservation in Mississippi.



Our Accomplishments

Since 2000, we have:

- Awarded more than \$430,000 and leveraged more than \$520,000
- Funded 11 projects
- Completed 6 projects
- Restored more than 220 acres of coastal habitat
- Engaged more than 180 volunteers for more than 1,300 service hours through partner-led activities

Our Partners

NOAA works with 17 local, private, and public organizations in Mississippi, including The Nature Conservancy, University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Our Focus

Reverse coastal habitat impacts from rapid growth and competing uses along Mississippi's Gulf Coast

Contact

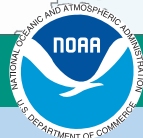
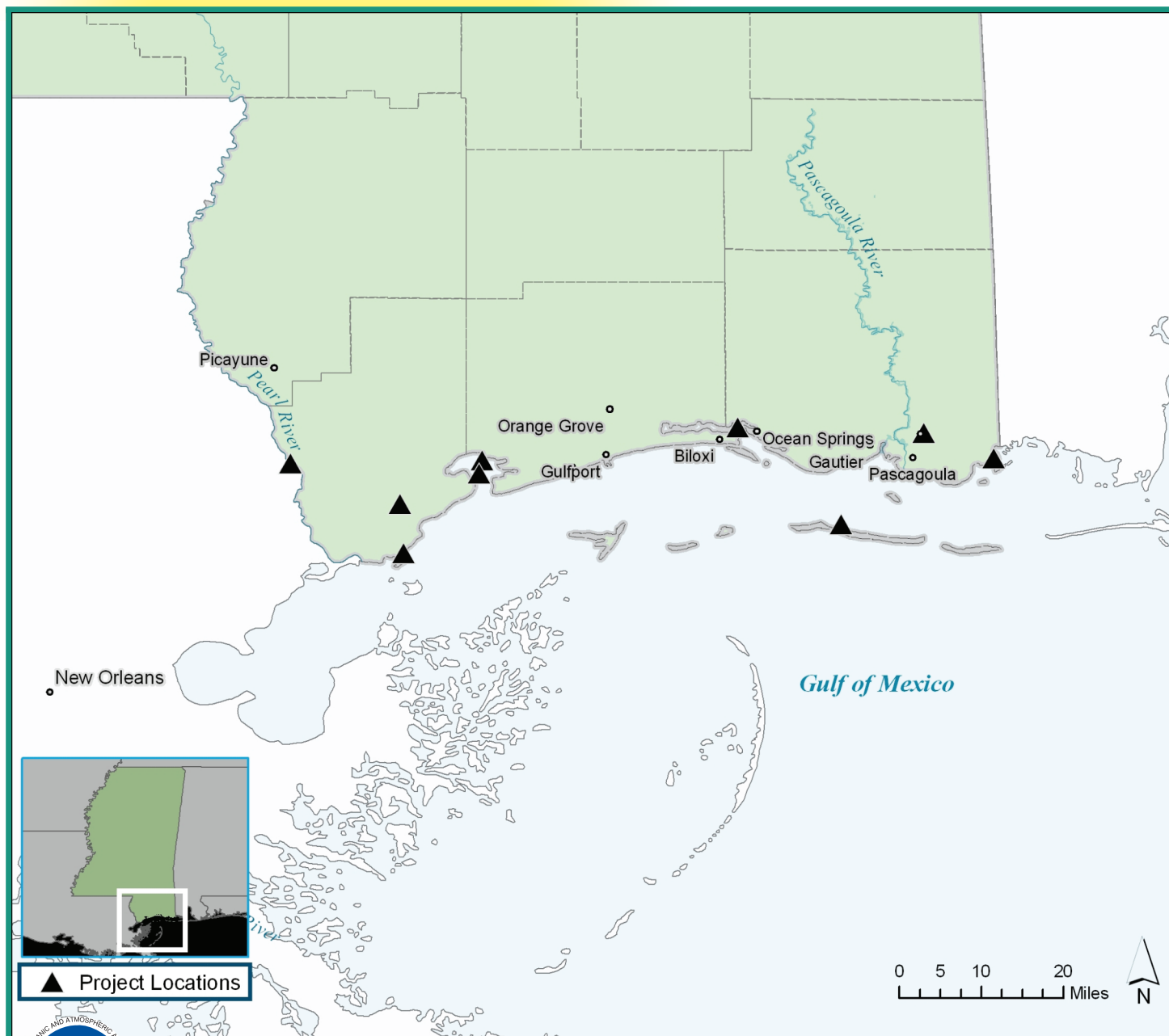
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NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

State of Mississippi



SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

Bay St. Louis Oyster Reef Restoration, Hancock County

East Mississippi Sound Oyster Restoration, Harrison and Hancock Counties

Grand Bay Intertidal Oyster Habitat Restoration, Moss Point

Gulf Islands National Seashore EFH Restoration, Ocean Springs

Mike's Island Restoration, Hancock County

Mississippi GEMS Tidal Marsh Restoration and Plant Nursery, Biloxi

Mississippi Oyster Reef Creation, Biloxi

Pelican Landing Coastal Riparian Restoration, Moss Point